

In regard to claim 7, JP6-60935 discloses the apparatus wherein the first spring (25) is coaxial with the first fastener (27) (see figure 1).

In regard to claims 8 and 11, JP6-60935 discloses (see attachment 1) an apparatus comprising the guide pins (14) protrudes from the mounting plate (10) to a greater extent than the connector (5) protrudes from the tray (23)/mounting plate (10).

In regard to claim 9, JP6-60935 discloses an apparatus comprising a rear plate (A) of a tray (23), with a second rear hole (other E); a second fastener (other 27) mounted in the second rear hole (other E); a second spring (other 25) mounted on the second fastener (other 27); a mounting plate (10) attached to a connector (5), wherein the mounting plate (10) is mounted on the second fastener (other 27) and the second spring (other 25) (see Attachment 1).

In regard to claim 12, JP6-60935 discloses (see attachment 1) an apparatus wherein the first and second guide pins are tapered.

In regard to claims 13 and 14, JP6-60935 discloses an apparatus comprising the first fastener (27) comprises a first bolt; and the second fastener (other 27) comprises a second bolt (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 15, JP6-60935 discloses the apparatus further wherein the mounting plate (10) comprises a first /second mounting hole (E, E); the mounting plate (10) is mounted on the first/second bolt (27) such that the first/second bolt (27) are positioned through the first /second mounting hole (E, E) (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 17, JP6-60935 discloses the apparatus further comprising a guide pin block (24, 24), wherein the first and second fastener (27, 27) mounted on the guide pin block (24, 24), and the rear plate (A) mounted on the guide pin block (24, 24) (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 18, JP6-60935 discloses (see Attachment 1) first and second guide holes (E, other E) located on the mounting plate (10).

In regard to claim 19, JP6-60935 discloses the first and second guide holes are located astride the connector (3) (see figure 2).

In regard to claim 20, JP6-60935 discloses a module comprising a connector (3) at the rear of the module, a first guide hole (D) located in proximity to the connector (3), wherein the first guide hole (D) is configured to receive a first guide pin (14) of a mating connector (5) located on the tray (23)(see Attachment 1).

In regard to claim 21, JP6-60935 discloses the module further comprising a second guide hole (other D) (see figure 2).

In regard to claims 24-27, JP6-60935 discloses the method comprising the steps of providing a tray (23), wherein the module includes first and second guide holes (D, other D) astride a first connector (3), wherein the tray (23) includes a mating connector (5) configured to accept the first connector (3), wherein the mating connector (5) is coupled to the tray (23) by at least one spring (25) and wherein the mating connector (5) is mounted between first and second guide pins (14, 14)/ hole (D, other D), inserting the module into the tray (23) until the first and second guide holes (D, other D)/ hole (D, other D) mate with the first and second guide pins (14, 14) such that the connector (3) is aligned with the mating connector (5) by the spring (25) (see figures 1, 2, 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP6-60935.

In regard to claim 3, JP6-60935 discloses the apparatus further comprising the first guide pin (14), wherein the first guide pin (14) is mounted on the tray (23) (see figures 1, 7). JP6-60935 lacks the guide pin protruding from the mounting plate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to rearrange the guide pin of JP6-60935 by protruding from the mounting plate instead of the tray; since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

In regard to claim 5, JP6-60935 discloses the apparatus wherein the first guide pin (14) is tapered (see figure 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 16 is allowed.
8. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regard to claim 4, the prior art fails to show or teach the first guide pin mounted on the first fastener so as to secure the mounting plate to the first fastener.

Response to Arguments